



SOUTHEAST NEWS

March - April 2013

Southeast Elementary School, 134 Warrenville Rd., Mansfield Center, CT 06250

423-1611

Dear Parents,

After forty-two years as a public school educator and twenty-one wonderful years of serving as principal of Southeast Elementary School, I have decided to retire at the end of this school year. The decision was not an easy one to make because of my deep devotion and strong connection to Southeast, the students, parents, staff and the community. My passion for teaching and love for children motivated me to enter this noble profession; a decision I will never regret. Along with spending more time with my family, I plan to continue making contributions to the field of education by staying active within several state and national educational organizations, including teaching at the university level.

Please know that I shall always cherish my time at Southeast School, the great memories, special people and the precious children who were placed in my care. It has been a remarkable time in my life and I am honored to end my public school career in this wonderful community and school I love and hold so dear to my heart. Southeast is an amazing school where everyone works together and is focused on "what's best for children".

Thank you for your tremendous support and the opportunity to work with you and our children. I shall never forget Southeast and the enriching experiences I have had throughout the last two decades.

Sincerely,
Norma Fisher-Doiron

This letter was sent home with students on January 9, 2013

Connecticut Mastery Test

We will begin our testing sessions of the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) for grades 3 and 4 on March 4th. Test sessions will include testing in the areas of math, reading/language arts and writing. We hope to have all testing sessions completed by March 22nd. Make-up dates will be March 13-22.

We ask that you help us by seeing that your child has enough sleep each night, a good breakfast, and that you provide support by realizing this is a somewhat stressful time for children. We will provide some practice tests in order to familiarize the children with the kinds of test questions and procedures used on the CMT.

If you have any questions regarding CMT testing, please feel free to call.



Calendar of Events

March

- Mar. 4..... 9:00-12:00 CT Mastery Testing
7:00-8:00 pm- PTO Meeting
- Mar. 5..... 9:00-12:00 CT Mastery Testing
- Mar. 6..... 9:00-12:00 CT Mastery Testing
- Mar. 7..... 9:00-12:00 CT Mastery Testing
- Mar. 8..... 9:00-12:00 CT Mastery Testing
Progress Reports go home
- Mar. 10..... Daylight Savings Time Begins
- Mar. 11..... 9:00-12:00 CT Mastery Testing
- Mar. 12..... 9:00-12:00 CT Mastery Testing
- Mar. 17..... St. Patrick's Day
- Mar. 20..... 1st day of Spring
- Mar. 22..... Math-a-Thon Kick-off
- Mar. 26 to April 2..... Passover
- Mar. 28..... **NO SCHOOL** - Professional Development for Staff
- Mar. 29..... **NO SCHOOL** - Good Friday
- Mar. 31..... Easter



April

- Apr. 12..... Trestle Tree ends
- Apr. 15..... Federal Income Tax Day
- Apr. 22-26 **NO SCHOOL** - Spring Vacation
- Apr. 29..... 4th Gr. Field Trip to Hyde Cultural Center



Scan our QR Code to get to our website

We've got all the information you're looking for:



- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| News and Announcements | Lunch Menus |
| Calendar of Events | P.T.O. |
| Documents and Forms | Staff Directory |
| Sign up for eAlerts | Parent Handbook |
| Take Home Notices | ... and more! |

What is a QR Code? QR Codes are 2 dimensional barcodes that are easily scanned using any modern mobile phone. This code will then be converted (called "decurified") into a piece of (interactive) text and/or link. For instance, you walk around in the city and notice a poster for an event that seems interesting. You take out your mobile phone, scan the QR Code and will instantly get more information and a link to a website where you can book your tickets. You don't have to type or remember anything and because QR Codes can be very small, this saves a lot of space on the product as well.

Credit: www.Qurify.com

Find us on the web at: www.mansfieldct.gov/southeast

After-School Science Sampler

Sue Harrington, who holds a Master's degree in biology and has been a science educator and naturalist for 30 years, has once again presented the after-school science sampler program for interested students in grades 1-4.

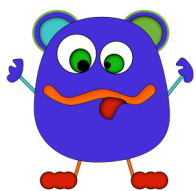


This exciting PTO supported program allows students to explore different fields of science and the scientific process by conducting simple, hands-on experiments. Each of the four workshop sessions focus on a different science topic (i.e., dinosaurs, chemistry, electricity, rocks, flight). The first and second grade workshops were February 7th – 28th. The third and fourth graders will meet March 25th through April 15th. Our students love to explore science topics with Mrs. Harrington!

MONSTER PROJECT



Congratulations to Jamie Hendricks who has been selected as a Co-Director of the Monster Project (<http://monsterproject.wikispaces.com>). With the use of technology, first, second and third grade students from up to 75 schools are encouraged to develop their reading and writing skills. Wikispaces are used so students can share descriptive writing and artwork using technology.



By using monsters as a vehicle, students exchange written descriptions via this wiki, and then recreate their partner's monster without ever looking at the "real thing". During the project, students create, discuss, describe, interpret, analyze, organize and assess their monsters as well as the monsters of their peers. Throughout the last 4 years, Mr. Hendricks' classes have communicated with more than 7 states and 2 countries.



Kids for Kids Day

Kindergartener Bronwyn Mott had an idea how kids could help other kids in need. She presented her idea to the principal and the enrichment teacher. Bronwyn proposed asking the Southeast students to talk to their parents about doing a chore for them, or anyone else, so they could raise money for sick children in the hospital. She wanted students to explain that they would do a chore for \$1.00 and they would donate the money to the hospital. Bronwyn's flyer stated that Southeast was sponsoring a Kids for Kids Day. The date of the fundraiser was Friday, February 1st. Along with donating their earned money, the students came to school in their pajamas on February 1st to show their support for the sick children at the hospital.

An assembly was held at Southeast on February 22nd and Bronwyn presented a check for \$480. to Marci Lombardo, from the CT Children's Medical Center.

Great job, Southeast School!

Mission to Malawi

Jana MacDonald is a Southeast parent who will be traveling to Malawi with Little Dresses for Africa in August. Little Dresses for Africa is a non-profit organization that provides relief to the children of Africa. Due to the widespread AIDS pandemic, many young girls are raising their siblings. Essentially, they are babies raising babies. Typically these girls only own one dress, which is often tattered and worn. Little Dresses for Africa provides these girls with one new dress which sends the message that they are worthy!



Jana will be hosting a dress making party and she will personally take these dresses with her to Malawi in August! Let's make this a community effort!

A Dress Making Party for LDFA

Saturday, March 30th
The Buchanan Center

(attached to the Mansfield Public Library)

10am – 2pm

There's no need to stay the whole time. Drop in when you can!

If you sew, please bring your sewing machine, a yard of pre-washed 100% cotton fabric, 2 ½ yd. of double wide bias tape, 12-18" elastic ¼" wide, coordinating all-purpose thread, scissors, pin, a measuring tape and any "add-ons" you might like (buttons, ric rac, etc.). Jana will provide the simple pattern. Beginner sewers and older children are welcome!

Don't sew? We still need you! If you can, please bring an ironing board and /or an iron and a sharp pair of scissors.

For more information, please contact Jana MacDonald:
jana@earlmacdonald.com

Kindergarten

Once again it is time to schedule our Kindergarten Registration. We are asking your help in identifying all children who will be eligible to attend kindergarten for the 2013-2014 school year. If you have a child or know of a child who will be five years old on or before January 1, 2014 and have not notified the office already, please call the school at 860-423-1611.

Children currently attending our preschool, who are age appropriate, are automatically enrolled in the kindergarten class. You do not need to call if you have already notified the office that your child will be starting this coming school year. We are currently in the process of sending out invitations to the parents of the incoming kindergarten students.

Thank you for your prompt attention.



Reminder:

Call the school attendance line
423-2793 by 9:00 am
if your child will be absent.

National Grange Presents Dictionaries to 3rd Graders



Mansfield's local chapter of the National Grange presented third graders at Southeast with its yearly donation of dictionaries. As part of The Dictionary Project, the Grange has once again donated dictionaries through its *Word for Thirds* program. The goal of the program is to help third graders complete the school year as good writers, active readers and creative thinkers by providing them with their own personal dictionaries. The gift of a dictionary provides each student the opportunity to use it at school and home for years to come.

James Hendricks, third grade teacher, shared that his students learn how to use the dictionary through the language arts program and then use it independently throughout the school year. He stated, "With every student receiving the same dictionary, it makes it easy to teach dictionary skills." After receiving the gift of a dictionary, one student said, "I love the smell of the new dictionary. It is great!" Another student said, "I can search for new words to learn every day; this is awesome!"

The National Grange, America's oldest rural and agriculture organization, has presented more than 1.8 million children with dictionaries.

Science Fair & Invention Convention

The annual Southeast School Science Fair and Invention Convention was held on Wednesday, February 27th. Many families came to support our student scientists and inventors and to celebrate their hard work and creativity! Each student who participated received a ribbon and a certificate at the end of the evening.



Our judges selected three inventors to represent Southeast School at the Connecticut Invention Convention on Saturday, May 4th at The University of Connecticut. They are:

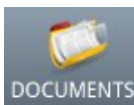
Second-grader Athavan Balakumar with his Lego Sorter

Second-grader Cai Ouellet with his Coat Pack

Fourth-grader Kurt Rueckl with his Umbrella Holder

Congratulations to these students and all who participated in Science Night!

Thank you to all families who helped their children with their projects and to all the teachers and staff who supported this event.



Take-Home Notices on our Website

Are you getting a lot of paper notices and flyers coming home with your child? Can't find the latest fundraiser flyer or details about an upcoming event? We have begun posting these notices electronically on our web site. They are posted every Monday for the previous week.

Next year we will give parents the chance to "opt out" of receiving paper notices. Our hope is to eliminate copies of notices or flyers that go home with students. If you feel that you need a paper copy, you will still have that option.

Check it out at mansfieldct.gov/southeast. Click on the Document icon at the top of the page, then choose Take Home Notices, and the appropriate week.

Just a quick reminder.....

Please don't forget to pack a snack for your child. Snack time is part of all classroom routines.



We encourage you to send your child with healthful choices such as fruit, veggies, juice, etc.

Snacks are not supplied by the teachers or the school.

The Trestle Tree is Here!



A physical education program unique to Mansfield Public Schools, the Trestle Tree satisfies the differentiated needs of all children. Beginning with low heights and simple activities in Preschool and Kindergarten, the Trestle Tree progressively gets higher and more challenging as children get older and more skilled. Activities on the Trestle Tree include creative movement, problem solving initiatives, movement exploration games, gymnastic skills, strength building, climbing and landing techniques, and cooperation.

The Trestle Tree, which consists of many components, is creatively assembled in various forms resembling a cross between gymnastic apparatus and an indoor playscape. The components of the Trestle Tree include trestles, balance beams, bridges, ladders, bars, nets, slides, mats, and ropes. We are looking forward to the challenges presented by the Trestle Tree program.

Parking Lot Safety



When picking children up from school, please park in a designated parking space. For safety reasons we cannot allow cars to park by the building, dumpster or alongside of other cars.

Drive slowly - 5 MPH in the parking lot.

Parents should hold their child's hand or keep them close. Children should not be allowed to wander or run in the parking lot. Snow piles are not a safe place to play.



Please be courteous to our safety patrols who are there to keep everyone safe.

Thank you for helping us keep our children safe.

News from the Southeast PTO

PTO Meeting Agendas and Minutes

The Southeast PTO meets the first Monday of each month (except December, July and August) at 7:00 p.m. to discuss school events, upcoming community building events, fundraisers and other topics that parents add to the agenda. Babysitting is provided across the hall.

If you would like to bring up a topic for the agenda, please e-mail Cyndi Wells, PTO President at cyndi.wells.pto@gmail.com

Meeting Agendas and Minutes are located at the Southeast Web Site and on the PTO Bulletin Board by the Parent Pick Up area.

PTO Officers 2012-2013:

Cyndi Wells, President; Jess Higham, Vice President; Gwen Schneider, Treasurer; Jana MacDonald, Secretary

Please contact us with any questions or ideas!



This year the PTO has purchased healthy snacks for Nutrition Month and Running Club, the Biomes Aquarium Enrichment Program, upcoming field trips and the Science Enrichment Program.

Contributing to the fundraisers is a great way to support our school and we thank you for doing so.

So far this year we have raised over \$12,000 !

Last month the Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge was discussed at the PTO meeting. We are excited to be partnering on this project. Look for e-mails soon explaining more about our involvement in the program.

The Southeast PTO needs people to volunteer to serve as PTO officers and committee leaders for next year. Every year the PTO elects a President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary to be an officer for a year. Help our PTO, and help our school. Example of committees include: fundraising, community building, and marketing/communication. Please ask any PTO officer for more information!



The PTO hosts several Community Building Events during the school year as an opportunity for families and staff to get together. In February we had a Family Game Night and this Saturday is Winter Skating at UCONN. Thanks to Noreen Halbrooks and Erin Christopher for organizing these events! If you are interested in coordinating a Community Building Event, please contact Cyndi Wells at cyndi.wells.pto@gmail.com.

Join us this Saturday, March 2 from 2:30-3:30 at the UCONN Ice Rink!



Thank you to our Southeast Community for your generous donations to the Adopt A Family Program! We received a very heartfelt letter from the Mansfield Human Services Department. They were extremely elated and grateful for all of the donated gifts!

Thank you to Lena Rossi for organizing our first Consignment Sale! The sale was held at Southeast in early February, and not only raised money for the PTO, but also reinforced our school's philosophy of reduce, reuse and recycle. Thank you for all of the families that participating in consigning your items.